

April 8, 2016

Mr. Dave Navecky and the Surface Transportation Board,

As a long time citizen and resident of the Paw Paw community (Lee county, IL), I have serious concerns about the proposed Great Lakes Basin high speed rail project going from Milton, Wisconsin, to Michigan City, Indiana, that you will be making a decision on by May 16, 2016. I urge you to not approve this project. -Docket # FD 35952

Northern Illinois, including our area, has some of the best farmland in the nation as I am sure you know. What will happen to a lot of this natural resource when 200 feet of prime topsoil is destroyed for miles and miles for this railway? These environmental issues are also a concern: Noise to communities from 100 to 110 trains using it in a 24 hour period; accidental spills of hazardous materials contaminating the soil and polluting the air and water; disruption of the natural flow of water in field waterways and various streams which can lead to flooding ; underground problems such as tile breakage; delays in time for emergency vehicles—some rural roads may be closed; with so many high speed trains using these tracks, there is greater risk of deaths at crossings and train derailment.

Thank you for considering these concerns.

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2019-2020